



### Dear Westford Residents,

May 2010



Jodi Ross  
Town Manager  
978-692-5500

[jross@westfordma.gov](mailto:jross@westfordma.gov)  
[www.westfordma.gov/tm](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm)

*Westford Kiwanis  
presents the 2010  
42nd Annual Apple  
Blossom Festival*

*Parade: May 15th at  
10:00 AM*

*Carnival:  
May 12-14  
5:00PM - 10:00PM*

*May 15  
10:00AM -10:00PM*

*May 16  
12:00PM -5:00PM*

Watch Meetings Online



[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

Visit  
[www.westfordma.gov](http://www.westfordma.gov)  
for current news and  
information.

Our annual town election was held on May 4, 2010. Congratulations to all who were elected, and a special thanks to Kaari Mai Tari, Town Clerk, and her staff for coordinating and overseeing the election. I would also like to personally welcome Andrea Peraner-Sweet to the Board of Selectmen, who brings a wealth of knowledge from her years on the Planning Board. Thank you to outgoing selectman Nancy Rosinski for her years of service, and all she contributed to the town's operations over the past 3 years. I would also like to congratulate and welcome John Mangiaratti, who was promoted to the position of Assistant Town Manager on April 26th. John has worked for the town for the past 5 years, and holds a Master's degree in Public Affairs, from the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies at UMASS Boston. Paul Murray, who served as our Veteran's Agent for the past 11 years, and has served on numerous town boards and committees, retired from the veteran's office on April 30th. Although we were greatly disappointed that Paul decided to retire, we wish him the best in his retirement.

The Westford Coalition for Non-Violence held two public forum/panel discussions during April that were well attended. The group is working diligently on producing a booklet with resources and other information for those affected by domestic violence. This booklet will be produced shortly and distributed in many town locations. We are also creating a website and calendar of future events. The Westford Academy and Nashoba Technical High School participated by asking students to submit designs for a logo for our group. We received several great submissions, and we are creating a design selection committee to screen the designs, and select 3 for final recommendation to the entire committee. We hope to use this design on our booklet, in future publications, and for any other banners, t-shirts, or whatever we do to promote our cause.

After an extensive Request for Proposals (RFP) process, the Board of Selectmen voted to award the lease for town-owned buildings to The Roudenbush Community Center Committee (TRCCI), pending successful lease negotiations which are currently underway. I learned at the April 27th Board of Selectmen's meeting that this action was occurring on the anniversary of the passing of Avis S. Hooper, someone who was intimately involved in Roudenbush's beginnings. According to Mickey Crocker, Avis was "Westford's Statesman". She was the second "Selectwoman" (Ellen Harde was the first), and was extremely active in the community. She started the Community Action Committee and did virtually anything and everything for our town. According to Mickey, "Avis came in as a blow-in, and left as a townie!" A special thank you to all citizens who participated with both the development and the evaluation of the RFP and proposals. It was quite an undertaking!

Town officials and staff are working on several matters raised at town meeting, including the nuisance issues resolution, the cell tower bylaw revisions, and the inconsistencies between the charter and the water bylaws. Stay tuned for developments and opportunities to participate in all of these and other issues.  
(Continued on page 2.)



**Dear Westford Residents,**

*(Continued from page 1.)*

We are all looking forward to the Apple Blossom Festival/Parade which begins this week.

Please enjoy this beautiful spring weather – we deserve it – but watch out for the black bear that was recently sighted in a resident's backyard!



Sincerely,

**Fire Department News**



**Board of Selectmen's Meeting - April 27th**

Chief Rochon along with Captain Ducharme presented Town Manager Jodi Ross with two checks totaling \$5,239.00 that were received as part of rebates for the new heating system for fire headquarters. Captain Ducharme was instrumental in overseeing the FY10 capital project of the fire headquarters boiler replacement and did an outstanding job securing the highest efficiency system to be used in the station. In addition, Captain Ducharme was able to seek the above rebates providing additional savings to the town and we congratulate him on a job well done.







### Water Department News

#### OUTDOOR WATERING CONSERVATION POLICY

The Westford Water Department encourages residents to comply with the voluntary Even/Odd Outdoor Watering Policy. The Outdoor Watering Policy will be in effect May 1 through October 31, 2010. Properties with even numbered street addresses may water on even days of the month, and properties with odd numbered street addresses may water on odd days of the month. The policy can be found in the General Bylaws of the Town under Chapter 169 (Chapter 169.7, sections D through H).

Adhering to the Outdoor Watering Policy is important even when the spring and summer months are wet because MassDEP restricts the amount of water we may use per person, per day to 65 gallons. The Outdoor Watering Policy helps us comply with this requirement.

Most lawn experts agree that many residents over-water their lawns and offer the following advice: established lawns only need 1 inch of water per week; water in the early morning or evening when evaporation rates are lowest; do not water during rain; and avoid over watering, which actually creates a weak grass plant that cannot tolerate drought or pests.

The use of hand-held hoses to water small gardens or new lawns or other plantings as needed, is not subject to this policy. We urge everyone to use water wisely this summer and throughout the year.

### Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery Department News

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) New England has awarded a grant of \$500 toward the department's USTA Junior Team Tennis. Additionally the department has been awarded a QuickStart Equipment Package. QuickStart Tennis is a progressive skill development program that begins with a smaller court and softer tennis balls and ultimately to full size rackets and court. The equipment package includes two 18ft mini tennis nets, twelve rackets, one dozen foam balls, one dozen low compression balls and one set of throw down lines. Recreation Department Teaching Pro Donna Holmes is excited about the new QuickStart equipment. A free clinic was offered May 1st by Donna and staff using the QuickStart equipment. Donna was very impressed with how quickly children picked up skills necessary to keep the ball in play.

For program information visit

[www.westfordrec.com](http://www.westfordrec.com)

or

[www.westfordma.gov/rec](http://www.westfordma.gov/rec)

**Engineering Department News****Smile! You're NOT On Camera**

You may have noticed that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass DOT) has installed several camera devices along Route 110, Littleton Road. These cameras are actually part of a video image vehicle detection system (VIVDS), and not the controversial "red-light" cameras as seen in other parts of the country. Instead of capturing or recording images, the VIVDS cameras are used by the traffic signal controller to determine the presence of vehicles so that it can change the signals accordingly. The old system of wire detectors in the pavement is not as effective as the cameras and they are often damaged by snow plows or construction work. Since the cost of the cameras is now low enough and more cost effective than wire detectors, Mass DOT has been installing them on more and more projects.

While it may seem like space-age technology, the VIVDS operation is pretty basic. Once a camera has been installed, an image is taken from the "detection zone" and constantly monitored by a computer in the traffic signal controller box. When the software detects a change in the image, the computer calls for a change in the signal or adjusts the timing of the signal to accommodate various traffic volumes. VIVDS on Littleton Road will keep traffic moving as efficiently as possible and prevent vehicles from having to idle at a red light when no other traffic is present. And that gives us all a reason to smile!

